



Special Service Area #61
SSA Board of Commissioners Minutes
Tuesday, July 7, 2026
Polsky Exchange North – Jackson Park Room

Present: C. Casey, S. Karim, C. Newsome, J. Nurss, M. Rogel, G. Rumsey

Pending commissioners' appointees: V. Markham, Dr. CJ Mimee, Eric Valdez (*Note: pending commissioners will be allowed to speak during meeting and take provisional votes on matters before the commissioners. Their appointment date would also affect whether a quorum is present.*)

Absent: A. Marks

Also Present: Rod Sawyer (SSA Program Manager), Diane Burnham (SECC) , Isaac Greene (SSA Accountant), Carol Moy, Jane Moy, Seyi KuKu, Kenneth Newman, Dan Brown

Chair Newsome called the meeting of SSA #61 to order at 11:03am with a quorum being present.

Reading/Approval of the Minutes:

The minutes for the May 26th, 2026 meeting were approved with the necessary corrections.

Questions and Comments from the Guests:

No guests were present during the comment period.

SSA Financials - Isaac Greene, Accountant. R. Sawyer, SSA Program Manager

The June 2026 P&L Report Summary and June 2026 Budget Tracker – Accountant Isaac Greene presented the financial position as of June 30th, 2026. It was noted that the 2026 increased surplus was due to the encumbered 2027 funds. We can use the encumbered funds for any shortfalls, as long as there is revenue to replace the expenditures before the end of the year. Commissioner Rumsey asked when we should expect to utilize the Master Planning line item. R. Sawyer thought late fall or early summer.



Program Committee Report - Commissioner Rogel Chair

Lake Park Metra Mural Wall Review

The committee reviewed and discussed the designs for the Hyde Park Metra Mural Project. R. Sawyer noted that this was a proposal only and it was subject to approval by both Metra and the Alders. The members were encouraged to email Rod and Commissioner M. Rogel with suggestions regarding the aesthetics of the designs. The proposal contained a public participation component for helping to create the mural. These included the public painting directly on the wall or at another location on panels that would be installed later. Safety concerns were noted for the location. It was emphasized that both artists were very professional and experienced, having completed a large number of murals previously. It was noted the artists wanted to work on the mural because they were from Hyde Park.

It was determined the Program committee needed a financial spending range for the project with a cap for the total expenditure. The board decided to empower the Program committee to spend up to 55k. This motion was put forward by Commissioner C. Casey and seconded by Commissioner S. Karim. The board approved the motion with a unanimous vote.

2027 Workplan Discussion and Acceptance Vote

R. Sawyer presented the workplan to the board. It was stated the current carryover calculation was 2.2%. And the TIF funds for 2027 were \$258k. Commissioner S. Karim asked about the process for budget modifications. The board reviewed the process and noted that we had until December 31st, 2027, to make modifications to address issues that may arise from [proposals from pending] RFP's and changes in project costs.

Commissioner G. Rumsey motioned to accept the 2027 Work Plan and Commissioner M. Rogel seconded the motion.

C. Casey – Yes

S. Karim – Yes.

J. Nurss – Yes

G. Rumsey – Yes

M. Rogel – Yes

Commission Chair C. Newsome did not vote.



Note: Provisional votes were taken from pending commissioners:

V. Markham – Yes

Dr. CJ Mimee – Yes

E. Valdez - Yes

SSA 2027 Service Provided by Workplan Vote

Rod asked the board to approve services provided by the 2027 Workplan. The board was in general not clear on how this was possible without having the RFPs yet. Rod stated he would get further clarification on this.

SECC as Service Provider Vote

The board voted to maintain the SECC as the service providers for SSA61. After a brief discussion of the process for selecting a service provider, the motion to accept the SECC was put forth by Commissioner C. Casey and seconded by Commissioner S. Karim. The board unanimously approved their retention.

SSA61 2025 Audit Report Review

Commissioner M. Rogel motioned to accept the 2025 Audit Draft and Commissioner G. Rumsey seconded the motion.

C. Casey – Yes

S. Karim – Yes

C. Newsome Yes

J. Nurss – Yes

M. Rogel – Yes

G. Rumsey - Yes

Note: Provisional votes were taken from pending commissioners:

V. Markham – Yes

Dr. CJ Mimee – Yes

E. Valdez - Yes

SECC/SSA Accountant RFP Discussion

Isaac Greene will not continue as the SECC/SSA61 accountant, but he will assist in the transition to the new accounting firm. R. Sawyer will draw up a timeline for the transition. SECC is meeting with the final candidate. D. Burnham (SECC) believes they will



be very good, and their services are utilized by three other SSAs. It was also noted that EVOLVE will remain the Auditor for another year.

SSA61 Program Manager's Report

R. Sawyer reviewed the 2026 Q2 SSA Worksheet.

SSA61 Chairman Report/Updates - C. Newsome

Chair C. Newsome emphasized the board's need to produce something that will leave evidence that the SSA61 board delivered to the community. Our role was not to just spend money, but to make a difference.

Questions / Comments from Commissioners

Commissioner C. Casey raised concerns of congestion and noise with the new wine bar opening at 55th and Cornell. R. Sawyer offered to introduce Commissioner C. Casey and others to the bar owner.

It was also stated how well the Hyde Park Parade had gone and that the parade had gotten some national attention. Several marching bands from outside the state had traveled to Hyde Park to join the parade.

Adjourn

The next Commissioners' meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 22nd, 2026, at 11:00am. The meeting was adjourned at 12:16pm

Submitted by

Commissioner James Nurss